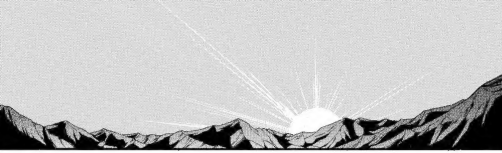
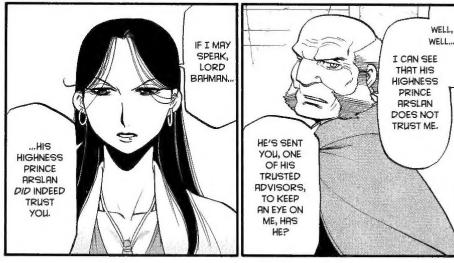


ジャー
ジャー
UUUGH... WHAT A HORRIBLE HANGOVER...
ぐわん ぐわん
THAT HERD OF WATER BUFFALO IS STILL IN MY HEAD...

UUUGH... WHAT A HORRIBLE HANGOVER...
WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE HANDSOME PARSIAN.
ぐわん ぐわん
GOOD DAY, HANDSOME SINDHURAN.

OH, IS THAT SO? IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE SONGS OF MY COUNTRY WERE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR YOU, HONORABLE BARD.
HA HA HA HA HA
MY SKULL, UNABLE TO BEAR YOUR HIGHNESS' BEAUTIFUL VOICE, FEELS LIKE IT IS ABOUT TO BURST.
GOT A HANG-OVER?
I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CAMPAIGN!!
SUSUTORED
SINDHURA HAS MANY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
HIS HIGHNESS WISHES TO EMBARK ON A LONG CAMPAIGN, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO STAY IN PARS AND SLEEP...
I AM SURE HE WILL LOVE IT!
IF WE MANAGE TO ENTER THE PALACE IN IRRIYUR, OUR ROYAL CAPITAL, I WILL RETURN THIS FAVOR AND HAVE PRINCE ARSLAN FULLY EXPERIENCE THE FINE FOODS AND SONGS OF SINDHURA!
CREAK
I SHOULD EXTEND MY MORNING GREETINGS–
SPEAKING OF BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, IN WHICH CHAMBER MIGHT I FIND THE BEAUTIFUL PARSIAN *KAHINA*?
I'LL NEVER TELL YOU!!

!


WELL, WELL...
I CAN SEE THAT HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN DOES NOT TRUST ME.
HE'S SENT YOU, ONE OF HIS TRUSTED ADVISORS, TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME, HAS HE?
IF I MAY SPEAK, LORD BAHMAN...
...HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN *DID* INDEED TRUST YOU.

IT WAS BASED ON THAT TRUST THAT HIS HIGHNESS CHOSE TO BRAVE THE LONG AND DANGEROUS JOURNEY ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS TO PESHAWAR.
IT WAS YOU WHO DID NOT PROVE HIMSELF WORTHY OF THAT TRUST, WAS IT NOT?
HOW IMPUDENT ...

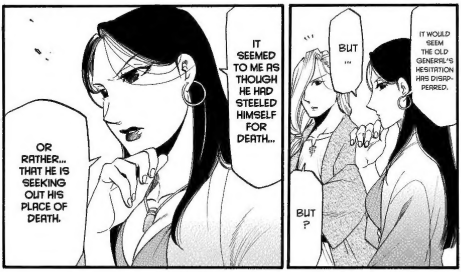
NARSUS IS A DISRESPECTFUL MAN WHO WAS EXPELLED FROM COURT FOR TALKING BACK TO KING ANDRAGORAS...
DARYUN MAY BE THE NEPHEW OF LORD VAHRIZ, WHO WAS MY FRIEND AND FELLOW, BUT HE IS UNENDEARING, AS IF HE BELIEVES HIMSELF TO ALWAYS BE IN THE RIGHT.
A FORMER GHOLAM, A BANDIT GIRL, A TRAVELING MINSTREL—THE WHOLE LOT IS THROWING MY FORTRESS INTO CONFUSION.
THEN YOU BELONG SECLUDED IN YOUR TEMPLE, GIVING PRAISE TO GOD. WHY DID YOU LEAVE IT FOR THE WORLD OF MEN?
THAT IS CORRECT, OLD GENERRL.
I HEAR YOU ARE A KAHINA WHO SERVES DIVINE MITHRA.
MOREOVER, WHY SHOULD I, A MARZBÂN, BE SCOLDED BY A KAHINA FROM OTHER PARTS?!
LET US SAY THAT MITHRA'S WILL AND MY OWN THOUGHTS WERE IN AGREEMENT.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU SERVE HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ARSLAN TO FOLLOW THE WILL OF MITHRA?
BECAUSE MITHRA LOATHES INJUSTICE AND ATROCITIES FILLING THE EARTH, AS SOMEONE WHO SERVES GOD, I, TOO, AM FORCED TO PUT WHAT LITTLE STRENGTH I CAN OFFER TO USE.
DIVINE MITHRA IS THE GOD OF LOYALTY.

CRING
SHING
CLANG
HMPH...
CLANG
CRING
HIS HIGHNESS ARSLAN IS BRAVELY TRYING TO CARRY OUT HIS DUTIES AND FACE HIS DESTINY.
ON THE CONTRARY, YOU, A VETERAN GENERAL WITH LONG EXPERIENCE IN BATTLE, ARE PARALYZED BY COWARDLINESS... SEEING THAT MAKES ONE QUESTION WHAT "THE WISDOM OF AGE" REALLY IS.
CRING

IF I MAKE TOO MUCH OF A SORRY DISPLAY OF MYSELF, I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FACE LORD VAHRIZ AFTER I GO TO THE AFTERLIFE.
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT ... ...BRASH WOMAN.
I'LL PROVE THAT I WILL DO NOTHING THAT WOULD SHAME ME...
...AS A PROUD WARRIOR AND MARZBĀN OF PARS.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

Chapter 42: A Foreign Sky

LORD NARSUS.
AH. HOW DID IT GO?


IT WOULD SEEM THE OLD GENERAL'S HESITATION HAS DISAPPEARED.
BUT ...
BUT ?
IT SEEMED TO ME AS THOUGH HE HAD STEELED HIMSELF FOR DEATH...
OR RATHER... THAT HE IS SEEKING OUT HIS PLACE OF DEATH.

...WE WILL NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS.
CLANG

LET US STOP HERE FOR TODAY.
ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU.
GHOL-AMS...
THEY'LL BE MAKING ARROWS THROUGH THE NIGHT TO PREPARE FOR THE SINDHURAN CAMPAIGN.
THOSE MEN WILL FIGHT AS INFANTRY WHEN THE BATTLE BEGINS, YOU KNOW.
THEY WILL?

GO ON. GIVE THE GHOLAMS YOUR PROMISE—"WHEN THE BATTLE WITH SINDHURR IS OVER, I WILL FREE YOU AND MAKE YOU AZAT."
I MAY ?/
DAMNED MARAUDER !!!
AH...
WILL THEY BE ABLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY ...?
BUT ...
AFTER I RELEASE THEM, THEN WHAT?

HOWEVER, IF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARS AND SINDHURA WAS TO STABILIZE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CULTIVATE THE LAND WITHOUT THAT THREAT.
BECAUSE OF THE THREAT OF SINDHURA, IT HAS GONE UNTOUCHED FOR THE MOST PART.
THE LAND BETWEEN PESHAWAR FORTRESS AND THE KAVERI RIVER IS NOT SO BARREN AS IT SEEMS. IT NEEDS ONLY IRRIGATION.
EVEN IF SINDHURA WAS TO ATTACK AGAIN, THEY WOULD SURELY TAKE UP WEAPONS THEMSELVES TO PROTECT THEIR LAND AND LIVELIHOOD.
AFTER THIS, THE INCOME OF THE ROYAL TREASURY WILL ALSO BE STABLE.
WE WILL HAVE THE FREED GHOLAMS KEEP WATER CHANNELS IN GOOD CONDITION, AND LEND THEM SEEDS, SAPLINGS, AND SO ON.
...THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE AND FIGHT WITH PEACE OF MIND.
WITH PESHAWAR FORTRESS AND LORD KISHWARD AT THEIR BACKS...
FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS, WE WILL TAKE NO TAXES FROM THEM. ONCE THE YIELD FROM THEIR FARMING IS STABLE, THEN WE WILL BEGIN TO TAKE TAXES.

TO THINK THAT ARSLAN AND RAJENDRA WOULD ENTER INTO AN ALLIANCE...

THIS IS A STRANGE TURN OF EVENTS.
I'VE DECIDED.
WE RETURN TO ECBATANA.
YES, SIR!
AS YOU WISH!
BUT SIR, WHAT OF ARSLAN AND HIS PARTY? IS IT ALL RIGHT TO LEAVE THEM TO THEIR OWN DEVICES?
NO, BUT I CANNOT BE DRAGGED INTO A LONG JOURNEY TO SINDHURA FOR HIM.
THAHMENAY... THAT SHREWD VIXEN MAY BE UP TO SOMETHING.
ALSO, I WOULD LIKE TO GET A GRASP ON THE STATE OF THE LUSITANIAN ARMY NOW THAT IT HAS SPLIT INTO FACTIONS LOYAL EITHER TO THE KING OR TO BODIN.

OH, DO NOT WORRY YOUR HEAD ABOUT THAT.
IF THAT ACCURSED ARSLAN MEETS HIS END AT THE HAND'S OF THE SINDHURANS, IT WILL BE A BIT DISAPPOINTING.

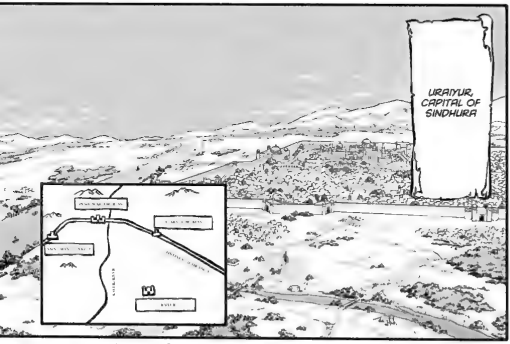
I CANNOT FOCUS ON ARSLAN ALONE AND IGNORE ECBATANA FOREVER.

HE WILL NOT BE EASILY KILLED BY THE LIKES OF SINDHURAN SOLDIERS.
HE HAS DARYUN AND NARSUS AT HIS SIDE.

...AND THEN THRUST HIS SEVERED HEAD BEFORE ANDRAGORAS.
I WILL EXECUTE HIM IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC OF THE ROYAL CAPITAL AS A FAKE PRINCE WHO CONTINUALLY DECEIVED THE PEOPLE OF PARS...

COME TO ECBATANA.
ARSLAN.

I WILL BE THE ONE TO KILL YOU...!


URAIYUR, CAPITAL OF SINDHURA

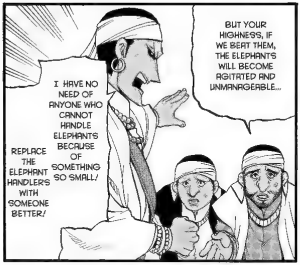
DAMN YOU, RAJENDRA !!!

TO THINK HE WOULD JOIN FORCES WITH THE PARSIAN ARMY IN HIS EFFORT TO TAKE THE CROWN...
THE SHAMELESS WHELP !!!
I SWEAR I WILL NEVER ALLOW HIM TO SIT ON THE THRONE !!!
CLANG

THE PARSIAN ARMY, OF ALL THINGS ...!
IT IS A TRUE ARMY, EVEN WITH THIS PRINCE ARSLAN, WHO THEY SAY HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN BATTLE, AT THE HEAD OF IT...
AND IT IS THE ARMY STRENGTHENED BY THE BACKING OF ANDRAGORRAS III, WHOSE NAME WE USE TO FRIGHTEN LITTLE CHILDREN INTO BEHAVING... WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FULLY SUPPRESS THE UNREST WITHIN OUR COUNTRY EITHER.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
SEE THAT IT IS ARRANGED AT ONCE, MAHENDRA!
Y-YES, WE SHOULD! WE'LL SEND THE WAR ELEPHANTS OUT, TOO!
WE SHOULD PREPARE OUR OWN ARMY AS WELL, SO THAT IT CAN BE MOBILIZED AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE, PRINCE GADHEVI.
WHAT WORRIES YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS?
...CAN WE WIN?
WE HAVE A REPORT FOR YOUR HIGHNESS PRINCE GADHEVI.
WHAT IS IT?
I-INDEED! YES! YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
WE CALL IT THE PARSIAN ARMY, BUT THEY WOULD NEVER SEND ALL OF THEIR FORCES HERE.
IN BOTH TALENT AND NUMBER OF SOLDIERS, YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE BY FAR.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
THE ELEPHANTS ARE REFUSING TO LEAVE THE STABLES BECAUSE OF TODAY'S COLD WINDS.

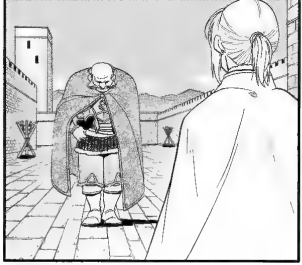

BUT YOUR HIGHNESS, IF WE BEAT THEM, THE ELEPHANTS WILL BECOME AGITATED AND UNMANAGEABLE...
I HAVE NO NEED OF ANYONE WHO CANNOT HANDLE ELEPHANTS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SO SMALL!
REPLACE THE ELEPHANT HANDLERS WITH SOMEONE BETTER!

DO NOT BOTHER ME WITH REPORTS OF EVERY TRIVIAL THING!
BEAT THEM WITH WHIPS TO DRIVE THEM OUTSIDE! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE WHIPS FOR?!

...HE DOES NOT EVEN REALIZE THAT HIS CALLOUSNESS AND IGNORANCE OF THE WORLD MAKES HIM MANY ENEMIES.

THE PARSIAN ARMY COULD ARRIVE AT ANY MOMENT!!
GO NOW !!

...I, THE PRIME MINISTER, WILL BE DRAGGED DOWN WITH HIM.
FWOOO...
IF BY ANY CHANCE PRINCE GADHEV! ENDS UP DEFEATED BY RAJENDRA...
THE SOLDIERS ARE READY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
V-VERY GOOD!
I'LL BE READY IN A MOMENT.



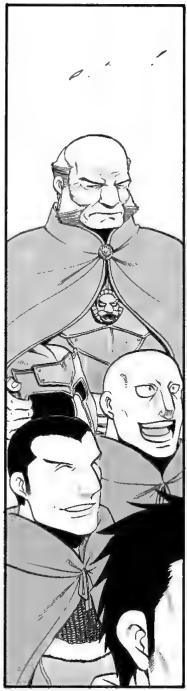
I WILL BE ACCOM-PANYING YOU ON THE SINDHURAN CAMPAIGN...
...YOUR HIGH-NESS PRINCE ARSLAN.

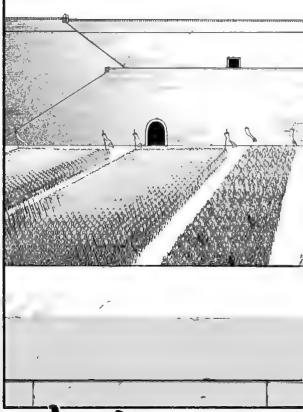
PWEEE

...YES.
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.

IT SEEMS THAT AZRAEL WISHES TO JOIN YOUR HIGHNESS AS WELL!
PAIP
AZRAEL!
THANK YOU, KISHWARD! I LEAVE PESHAWAR UNDER YOUR PROTECTION!
PLEASE TAKE HIM WITH YOU!
THE FELLOW THINKS OF HIMSELF AS YOUR HIGHNESS' LOYAL FRIEND, AND HE PREFERS TO BE OUT UNDER THE OPEN SKY RATHER THAN COOPED UP IN A FORTRESS!
DO YOU SUPPOSE THE FOREIGN SKY IS OPEN, AZRAEL?
LET US GO.
TO PESHAWAR!

おおおおおお
AAAHHH
PRINCE ARSLAN!
PRINCE ARSLAN!





おおおお
WAAAAH
GLORY TO PARS!

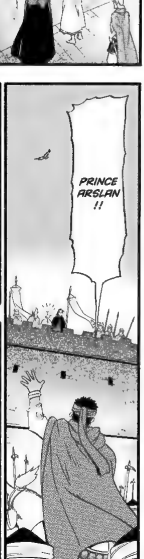
OUR KING !!
RAJEN-DRA !!
RAJEN-DRA !!

LEAD US TO VICTORY!
RAJENDRA! MAY THE GRACE OF THE GODS BE WITH YOU!

IT WOULD SEEM THAT FLIPPANT PRINCE IS SOMEHOW WELL-LIKED BY THE SOLDIERS.

わあ
あああ
WAAAAAH
あああ

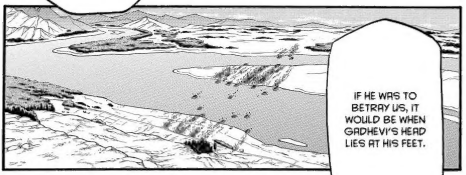
I WISH TO BECOME YOUR GOOD FRIEND!
WE WILL SHARE THE KAVERI RIVER AS A BORDER. IN THE EAST, I WILL BE RAJAH OF SINDHURA!
IN THE WEST, YOU WILL BE SHAH OF PARS!


PRINCE ARSLAN!!

WE SHOULD STRIVE TO CONQUER BOTH SIDES AS FAR AS THE GROUND EXTENDS, UNTIL WE REIGN SUPREME OVER THE ENTIRE CONTINENT, AND JOIN HANDS IN BUILDING ETERNAL PEACE!

I AGREE.
I CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO TRUST THAT MAN.

FOR NOW, RAJENDRA HAS NOTHING AT ALL TO GAIN FROM BETRAYING PRINCE ARSLAN.
BUT NOT TO WORRY.


IF HE WAS TO BETRAY US, IT WOULD BE WHEN GADHEVI'S HEAD LIES AT HIS FEET.

RRRUMBLE
ドドドドドド
THEY NUMBER 15,000 !!
GADHEVI'S ARMY IS AHEAD OF US!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
LET THEM...
WE, THE PARSIAN ARMY, ARE NOT THEIR FOE.
LET THEM.
WE WILL SCATTER THEM.
SO THEY HAVE COME FOR US ALREADY?
CLASH
THEY AIM TO ATTACK RAJENDRA'S ARMY, BEFORE THEY CAN FINISH CROSSING THE RIVER!

BWOOSH
WHOCK
DROSH
BLOSH
EEP...
PRADALATA!
IT'S PRADALATA!
EEEEEK
THERE IS NO ONE IN RAJENDRA'S ARMY WHO CAN MATCH HIM!!

I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT.
!
THOOM

IF YOUR HERD IS NOT WORTH A MEDRL, THEN GET OUT OF MY SIGHT.
DO YOU LEAD 1,000 CAVALRY-MEN? OR ARE YOU A MARZBĀN WITH 10,000 CAVALRY-MEN?
WHAT'S THIS?
ONE OF THOSE TAHIR FELLOWS, OR WHATEVER THEY'RE CALLED?

I'M NOT A MARZBĀN NOW, OR ANYTHING ELSE BUT A SIMPLE SOLDIER.
SORRY THAT I CAN'T LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS.